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Regulations Update July 2012

Upcoming Regulatory Packages:

- Summer Flounder — 08.02.05.12 Standardize the declaration period, standardize ownership of a federally permitted vessel, clarify the limit of 2 quotas fished from the same vessel, clarify how overages will be deducted, clarify why public notices are issued, cap the permits at 7 (current number) and allow for transfer of 100% of individual's quota, but with cap on amount of quota any one individual may acquire.
- Black Bass Tournament Permit — 08.02.01.11 Require largemouth and smallmouth bass tournament directors to obtain a free permit before conducting bass tournaments in Maryland.
- Black Sea Bass — 08.02.05.21 Standardize the declaration period, standardize text regarding ownership of a federally permitted vessel, clarify the limit of 2 quotas fished from the same vessel, clarify how overages will be deducted, clarify why public notices are issued, cap the permits at 14 (current number) and allow for transfer of 100% of individual's quota, but with cap on amount of quota any one individual may acquire.
- Penalty Updates for 2013 – 08.02.13 Adjusts the recreational, commercial, and charter boat/fishing guide penalty systems based on an annual assessment of violations. The action adds penalties for undersized hard crabs and fishing in a blind, youth area to the recreational fishing penalty system. The action increases tiers for oyster sanctuary violations, adds additional tiers for undersized hard crabs, differentiates misdemeanor and felony Lacey Act violations, and adds penalties for gill net reels, unmarked gill net corks, river herring possession, and untagged oyster containers to the commercial fishing penalty system. The action also adds penalties for undersized hard crabs to the charter boat/fishing guide penalty system. The action makes general text corrections and clarifications.

The following public notices were issued recently:

Commercial Striped Bass Hook & Line - Effective Thursday, June 7, 2012, the daily catch limit is 500 pounds per day with a weekly catch limit of 1500 pounds per authorized tidal fish licensee. Fishing days will be limited to Monday through Thursday and may be modified based on the monthly striped bass harvest.

The following regulation packages have been proposed:

View proposals in Maryland Register at <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDRegister/mdregister.aspx>

- Spanish Mackerel — Proposed — 08.02.05.14
Maryland Register 5/4/12, Comment Period Ends 6/4/12, Scheduled Effective 7/9/12
Recreational: requires all Spanish mackerel be landed with the head and fins attached. Commercial: creel limit of 3500 pounds per vessel, per day/trip.
- Striped Bass — Proposed — 08.02.15.04

Maryland Register 6/1/12, Comment Period Ends 7/2/12, Scheduled Effective 8/6/12
Cap the number of pound net and Atlantic commercial striped bass permits through 2013.

- Free Fishing Areas — Coast — Proposed — 08.02.01.07
Maryland Register 6/15/12, Comment Period Ends 7/16/12, Scheduled Effective 8/20/12
Add Northside Park and the Chicago Avenue bulkhead as free fishing areas.
- Seafood Marketing — True Blue Program — Proposed — 08.02.24.01
Maryland Register 6/15/12, Comment Period Ends 7/16/12, Scheduled Effective 8/20/12
Allow restaurants serving Department-verified Maryland blue crab product to use a special logo in marketing or advertising the product.
- Fishing in Nontidal Waters — Emergency — 08.02.11.01
Effective June 26 through December 20, 2012
Remove Lion's Park Pond in Allegany County and Avalon Pond (Lost Lake) in Baltimore County from the list of areas limited to individuals under 16 years of age, 65 years of age and older, and Blind Persons. Both areas will be placed on the Put-and-Take Trout Fishing Areas.
- Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Amendment — Proposed — 08.02.01.01
Maryland Register 6/29/12, Comment Period Ends 7/30/12, Scheduled Effective 9/3/12
Amendment #2 to the 1997 Chesapeake Blue Crab FMP provides the mechanism for formally adopting the new biological reference points and control rule.
- Tautog — Proposed — 08.02.05.20
Maryland Register 6/29/12, Comment Period Ends 7/30/12, Scheduled Effective 9/3/12
Error found in the Tautog stock assessment: season ends November 26 instead of November 15.
- Horseshoe Crabs — Proposed — 08.02.10.01
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 7/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12
Recreational and Commercial fishery changes.
- Oysters — Power Dredge Permit and Lines; Hand Tong Lines — Proposed — 08.02.04.09,.12
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 7/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12
Remove permit requirement; fix lines.
- Oysters — PSFA — Proposed — 08.02.04.17
Maryland Register 7/27/12, Comment Period Ends 7/27/12, Scheduled Effective 10/1/12
Fix lines.